

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00775 150819Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W  
-----150925Z 086826 /10

R 150620Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722

UNCLAS SOFIA 0775

STATE FOR CU/ARTS & CU/EE

PASS USIA FOR IEU, AND IBS/PE (PLANINSKY)

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SCUL  
SUBJECT: PIANIST MALCOLM FRAGER

REF: STATE 062338

1. PIANIST MALCOLM FRAGER, SPONSORED BY STATE IVRESSARIO AGENCY "SOFIACONCERT" DEPARTED SOFIA APRIL 14 FOLLOWING TWO SUCCESSFUL CONCERTS IN SOFIA, ONE IN PLOVDIV, AND SEVERAL RECORDING SESSIONS IN SOFIA.

2. IN FIRST VISIT TO BULGARIA, FRAGER GAVE RECITAL IN BULGARIA CONCERT HALL ON APRIL 4, PERFORMING WORKS BY HAYDN, SCHUMANN AND CHOPIN. IN RESPONSE TO FIVE CURTAIN CALLS FOR ENCORES (HIGH IN SOFIA) FRAGER PLAYED CHOPIN'S COTREDANSE THEN LISZT'S HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO. 8, LATTER ESPECIALLY EVOKING BRAVO FROM APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE.

3. ON APRIL 5 FRAGER PLAYED BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2 WITH SOFIA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, CMDUCTED BY DIMITUR MANOLOV, WHO IS NOW AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. PIANIST RECEIVED ACCOLADES FROM MANOLOV AND AGAIN GENEROUS APPLAUSE AND CURTAIN CALLS. "SOFIA NEWS"  
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CALLED FRAGER'S ART "AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

4. ON APRIL 7 FRAGER PERFORMED WITH THE PLOVDIV PHILHARMONICVORCHESTRA, EMIPCQKAROV CONDUCTING, BEFORE SOLD-OUT HOUSE. HUNDREDS OF TICKET SEEKERS WERE TURNED AWAY.

5. DURING APRIL 8-13, STAYING IN SOFIA SEVERAL DAYS LONGER THAN PLANNED, FRAGER RECORDED WITH PHILHARMONIC GROUP-SYMPHONETTA, CONDUCTED BY CHAKAROV, FOR STATE RECORDING ENTERPRISE "BALKANTON", RARE VCURENCE FOR AN AMERICAN. FRAGER SAID "AT LEAST" THREE RECORDS WILL RESULT, ONE WITH VIOLINIST AND ARTIST OF MERIT STOYKA MILANOVA.

6. COMMENT. FRAGER IS PERSONABLE, COURTEOUS, ACCOMMODATING ARTIST WHOSE MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE RESULTED IN UNPLANNED RECORDINGS AND SOFIACONCERT'S INVITAPM FOR RETURN VISIT. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF POST'S HELP AND IS RECOMMENDED HIGHLY.

HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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